

Application Serial No. 09/932,494 (Atty. Ref. No. 3320/1/US)
Amendment dated February 23, 2005
Reply to Office action dated August 23, 2004

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 14 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for preparing an oral fast-melt pharmaceutical composition, the process comprising:

(a) a step of wet granulating a drug in an amount of about 15% to about 75% by weight of the composition together with a liquid binding agent comprising a saccharide having high moldability,

(b) a step of blending with the drug a saccharide having low moldability, and

(c) a step for inhibiting agglomeration of the drug, **said step selected from the group consisting of addition of a wetting agent, means for pre-wetting the material to be granulated, and means for increasing air flow along the periphery of the granulation bowl;**

wherein steps (a), (b), and (c) occur in any order or simultaneously to result in formation of granules, wherein the drug has at least one property conferring upon the drug a tendency to agglomerate in the composition, **[[and]]** wherein the drug is celecoxib, **and wherein said wetting agent is selected from the group consisting of surfactants, hydrophilic polymers and clays, wherein said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium compounds, dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate, polyoxyethylene alkylphenyl ethers, polyoxyethylene block copolymers, polyoxypropylene block copolymers, polyoxyethylene fatty acid glycerides, polyoxyethylene fatty acid oils, polyoxyethylene alkyl ethers, polyoxyethylene fatty acid esters, polyoxyethylene sorbitan esters, propylene glycol fatty acid esters, sodium lauryl sulfate, fatty acids, salts of fatty acids, glyceryl fatty acid esters, sorbitan esters, tyloxapol, and mixtures thereof.**

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Claim 2 (original): The process of Claim 1 wherein said step (b) occurs prior to or simultaneously with said step (a).

Claim 3 (original): The process of Claim 1 wherein said wet granulating step comprises fluid bed granulation.

Claims 4-9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (original): The process of Claim 1 wherein said saccharide having low moldability is selected from the group consisting of lactose, mannitol, glucose, sucrose and xylitol.

Claim 11 (original): The process of Claim 1 wherein said saccharide having low moldability is mannitol of powder grade.

Claim 12 (original): The process of Claim 1 wherein said saccharide having high moldability is selected from the group consisting of maltose, maltitol, sorbitol and oligosaccharides having 2 to 6 monosaccharide residues.

Claim 13 (original): The process of Claim 1 wherein said saccharide having high moldability is maltose.

Claims 14-17 (cancelled).

Claim 18 (previously presented): The process of Claim 91 wherein said wetting agent is added in a total amount of about 0.05% to about 5% by weight of the composition.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The process of Claim 91 wherein said wetting agent is added in a total amount of about 0.075% to about 2.5% by weight of the composition.

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Claim 20 (previously presented): The process of Claim 91 wherein said wetting agent is added in a total amount of about 0.25% to about 1% by weight of the composition.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The process of Claim 1 wherein the agglomeration inhibiting step comprises addition of at least one glidant.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The process of Claim 21 wherein said at least one glidant is silicon dioxide and/or talc.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The process of Claim 21 wherein said at least one glidant is added in a total amount of about 0.05% to about 5% by weight of the composition.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The process of Claim 21 wherein said at least one glidant is added in a total amount of about 0.1% to about 2% by weight of the composition.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The process of Claim 21 wherein said at least one glidant is added in a total amount of about 0.25% to about 1% by weight of the composition.

Claims 26-27 (cancelled).

Claim 28 (previously presented): The process of Claim 1 wherein said drug is present in an amount of about 30% to about 75% by weight of the composition.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The process of Claim 1 wherein said drug is present in an amount of about 45% to about 75% by weight of the composition.

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Claim 30 (original): The process of Claim 1 wherein said saccharide having high moldability is present in a total amount of about 1% to about 10% by weight of the composition.

Claim 31 (original): The process of Claim 1 wherein said saccharide having high moldability is present in a total amount of about 1% to about 7.5% by weight of the composition.

Claim 32 (original): The process of Claim 1 wherein said saccharide having high moldability is present in a total amount of about 1% to about 5% by weight of the composition.

Claim 33 (original): The process of Claim 1 wherein said saccharide having low moldability is present in a total amount of about 10% to about 90% by weight of the composition.

Claim 34 (original): The process of Claim 1 wherein said saccharide having low moldability is present in a total amount of about 15% to about 60% by weight of the composition.

Claim 35 (original): The process of Claim 1 wherein said saccharide having low moldability is present in a total amount of about 25% to about 50% by weight of the composition.

Claim 36 (original): The process of Claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of said saccharide having high moldability to said saccharide having low moldability is about 2:100 to about 20:100.

Claim 37 (original): The process of Claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of said saccharide having high moldability to said saccharide having low moldability is about 5:100 to about 10:100.

Claim 38 (original): The process of Claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of said saccharide having high moldability to said saccharide having low moldability is about 5:100 to about 7.5:100.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The process of Claim 1, further comprising

(d) a step of blending said granules with at least one of a lubricant, a sweetening agent and a flavoring agent to form a tableting blend, and

(e) a step of compressing the tableting blend to form oral fast-melt tablets.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The process of Claim 39 wherein parameters are set in said compressing step (e) to provide tablets having a hardness of about 1 to about 10 kp.

Claim 41 (previously presented): An oral fast-melt pharmaceutical composition prepared by the process of any of Claims 1-3, 10-13, 18-25, and 28-40.

Claim 42-45 (cancelled).

Claim 46 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 101 wherein said wetting agent, if present, is present in an amount of about 0.05% to about 5% by weight of the composition.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 100 wherein said wetting agent, if present, is present in an amount of about 0.075% to about 2.5% by weight of the composition.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 100 wherein said wetting agent, if present, is present in an amount of about 0.25% to about 1% by weight of the composition.

Claim 49 (cancelled).

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Claim 50 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 96 wherein said glidant, if present, is silicon dioxide and/or talc.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 90 wherein said glidant, if present, is present in an amount of about 0.05% to about 5%.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 90 wherein said glidant, if present, is present in an amount of about 0.1% to about 2%.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 90 wherein said glidant, if present, is present in an amount of about 0.25% to about 1%.

Claims 54-61 (cancelled).

Claim 62 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 99 wherein said drug is present in an amount of about 30% to about 75% by weight of the composition.

Claim 63 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 99 wherein said drug is present in an amount of about 45% to about 75% by weight of the composition.

Claim 64 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 99 wherein said saccharide having low moldability is selected from lactose, mannitol, glucose, sucrose and xylitol.

Claim 65 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 99 wherein said saccharide having low moldability is present in an amount of about 10% to about 90% by weight of the composition.

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Claim 66 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 99 wherein said saccharide having low moldability is present in an amount of about 15% to about 60% by weight of the composition.

Claim 67 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 99 wherein said saccharide having low moldability is present in an amount of about 25% to about 50% by weight of the composition.

Claim 68 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 99 wherein said saccharide having low moldability is mannitol of powder grade.

Claim 69 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 99 wherein said saccharide having high moldability is selected from the group consisting of maltose, maltitol, sorbitol and oligosaccharides having 2 to 6 monosaccharide residues.

Claim 70 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 99 wherein said saccharide having high moldability is maltose.

Claim 71 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 99 wherein said saccharide having high moldability is present in an amount of about 1% to about 10% by weight of the composition.

Claim 72 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 99 wherein said saccharide having high moldability is present in an amount of about 1% to about 7.5% by weight of the composition.

Claim 73 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 99 wherein said saccharide having high moldability is present in an amount of about 1% to about 5% by weight of the composition.

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Claim 74 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 99 wherein the weight ratio of said saccharide having high moldability to said saccharide having low moldability is about 2:100 to about 20:100.

Claim 75 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 99 wherein the weight ratio of said saccharide having high moldability to said saccharide having low moldability is about 5:100 to about 10:100.

Claim 76 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 99 wherein the weight ratio of said saccharide having high moldability to said saccharide having low moldability is about 5:100 to about 7.5:100.

Claim 77 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 99 that is in the form of a tablet.

Claim 78 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 77 wherein said tablet disintegrates within about 30 to about 300 seconds in a standard in vitro disintegration assay.

Claim 79 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 77 wherein said tablet disintegrates within about 30 to about 200 seconds in a standard in vitro disintegration assay.

Claim 80 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 77 wherein said tablet disintegrates within about 30 to about 150 seconds in a standard in vitro disintegration assay.

Claim 81 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 77 wherein said tablet disintegrates within about 5 to about 60 seconds after placement in the oral cavity of a subject.

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Claim 82 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 77 wherein said tablet disintegrates within about 5 to about 30 seconds after placement in the oral cavity of a subject.

Claim 83 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 77 wherein said tablet disintegrates within about 5 to about 25 seconds after placement in the oral cavity of a subject.

Claims 84-85 (cancelled).

Claim 86 (previously presented): A method of treating a medical condition or disorder in a mammalian subject where treatment with a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor is indicated, comprising orally administering to the subject a composition of Claim 99.

Claim 87 (original): The method of Claim 86 wherein said mammalian subject is a human subject.

Claim 88 (original): The method of Claim 87 that further comprises combination therapy with one or more drugs selected from the group consisting of opioids and other analgesics.

Claim 89 (original): The method of Claim 87 that further comprises combination therapy with an opioid compound selected from the group consisting of codeine, meperidine, morphine and derivatives thereof.

Claim 90 (previously presented): The process of Claim 1 wherein said agglomeration inhibiting step comprises (i) adding to the composition at least one inhibitory agent selected from the group consisting of wetting agents and glidants and/or (ii) pre-wetting the drug prior to step (a).

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Claim 91 (previously presented): The process of Claim 1 wherein said agglomeration inhibiting step comprises adding to the composition at least one wetting agent.

Claim 92 (cancelled).

Claim 93 (previously presented): The process of Claim 91 where the at least one wetting agent comprises at least one surfactant.

Claim 94 (cancelled).

Claim 95 (previously presented): The process of Claim 93 where the at least one surfactant comprises sodium lauryl sulfate.

Claim 96 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 99 wherein said agglomeration inhibiting means comprises at least one wetting agent and/or at least one glidant.

Claim 97 (previously presented): The process of Claim 1 wherein the drug is dispersed in the composition.

Claim 98 (previously presented): The process of Claim 1 wherein said at least one property is selected from the group consisting of electrostatic, cohesive, low bulk density, low compressibility, and poor flow.

Claim 99 (previously presented): An oral fast-melt composition comprising:

- (a) a drug in an amount of about 15% to about 75% by weight of the composition;
- (b) a liquid binding agent comprising a saccharide having high moldability; and
- (c) a means for inhibiting agglomeration of the drug, **said means selected from**

the group consisting of addition of a wetting agent, means for pre-wetting the

material to be granulated, and means for increasing air flow along the periphery of the granulation bowl;

wherein the drug is uniformly dispersed in the liquid binding agent, wherein the drug has at least one property conferring upon the drug a tendency to agglomerate, **[[and]]** wherein the drug is celecoxib, **and wherein said wetting agent is selected from the group consisting of surfactants, hydrophilic polymers and clays, wherein said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium compounds, dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate, polyoxyethylene alkylphenyl ethers, polyoxyethylene block copolymers, polyoxypropylene block copolymers, polyoxyethylene fatty acid glycerides, polyoxyethylene fatty acid oils, polyoxyethylene alkyl ethers, polyoxyethylene fatty acid esters, polyoxyethylene sorbitan esters, propylene glycol fatty acid esters, sodium lauryl sulfate, fatty acids, salts of fatty acids, glyceryl fatty acid esters, sorbitan esters, tyloxapol, and mixtures thereof.**

Claim 100 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 99 wherein said at least one property is selected from the group consisting of electrostatic, cohesive, low bulk density, low compressibility, and poor flow.

Claim 101 (previously presented): The composition of Claim 99 wherein the inhibiting means comprises a wetting agent.

Claim 102 (cancelled).